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PEMAQUID

ITS GENESIS, DISCOVERY, NAME AND COLONIAL
RELATIONS TO NEW ENGLAND

BY RUFUS KING SEWALL

Read before the Lincoln County Historical Society

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I

English records have preserved the acts of the English race in the discovery, survey, seizin and possession of New England, somewhat scattered in detail, but easily collated, to be arranged in their natural relations, in verification of the truth of history.

Many of these initial acts have never been fully analyzed and combined in their natural order and relations, to the development of New England history in Maine, but rather have been eclipsed in the glamor of more ambitious local surroundings, foreign to Maine.

I now propose to lift the shadows, relieve the glamor, disclose and trace the life threads of New England to rootlets at Pemaquid.

We have this summary of colonial facts by Major, in his introduction to the Hackluit papers, original sources of the beginnings of English homes in New England, viz: "that to the *northward in the height [latitude] 44°, lyeth the country of Pemaquid—the Kingdom wherein our western colony was sometime planted."

This summary connects Pemaquid with Sagadahoc in the colonial possessions of the English there. The latitude given determines the *locus in quo* to have been in New England, and at and about Pemaquid and its dependencies.

The English discovery may be regarded as somewhat accidental, in a marine novelty of a Captain Gosnold, as to his course across the Atlantic, shaped due west from Falmouth, west of England, as the winds would allow him to run. In seven weeks, [†]on the 14th of May, 1602, among floating seaweed and land wrack at sea, lured by the smile of

*Major's introduction, Hackluit papers, Tra. in Va. p. 27.

[†]Archer. Gosnold's voyage.

land ahead, near sunrise, he made land bearing north: "an out point of rising ground; trees on it high and straight from the rock; land somewhat low; certain hummocks, or hills lying inland, with a shore full of white sand, but very stony or rocky. Little round green hills above the cliffs appearing east-northeast, from the sea-point of observation."

Such was the topography of the new land-fall, and of the shore view of land about *Sagadahoc, a shore full of white sand, the first English view of Maine.

Gosnold cast anchor near this remarkable land-fall, when a Spanish sloop manned with eight Indian seamen—natives of the region, soon came on board. Some were dressed in European cloth and costume; and one wearing a hat and shoes, †chalked a map of the new discovered country, for the ship's company, and called it "Ma-voo-shan."

This was an early view of a part of New England, within the 43° N. L.; and of a cape, now called "Small Point," in $43^{\circ} 42'$ N.; and of the shores of the Sagadahoc, eastward thereof, with its broad, white sandy beaches, and rock fretted mouth of the Kennebec watershed.

It was the English *prima-vista* of New England; and in the cartography of this Indian Chalk, of the "Eastern parts," of a newly discovered country, the name of "Pema-quid" was found, applied to a little river of the eastern water-shed of Ma-voo-shan with that of "Saga-da-hoc," in the west.

The name is apparently derived from a purely Indian source, viz: †"Pemi", meaning oil, and †"Quidden," a ship; and has ever been applied to the point of the main land west under Monhegan Island, a promontory or cape, five miles long by three wide, in N. L. $43^{\circ} 50'$. This point is the eastern main-land loop of the great Kennebec watershed, of which Cape Small Point is the western point of the crescent shaped body of water called Saga-da-hoc bay, in latitude $43^{\circ} 42'$ north, of the coast of Maine.

It was here Weymouth found native whale-men at work, which he describes, in 1605; and where Captain John Smith "fished for whales," in 1614; and being the place where whale oil was gathered, may have given the name.

*Hutchinson's History, Mass., vol. 1, chap. 1, Strachey.

†Holmes Annals, vol. 1, note 4. ††Rasle's Dictionary.

‡Rosier's Narrative.

SURVEY OF A. D. 1605.

A new *survey was projected, to verify the findings of Gosnold's land-fall; and to seek a fit and convenient place for English "seizin and possession," A. D. 1605.

In the month of June of that year, Capt. George Weymouth, in a ship called the Archangel, her company made up in part of the Gosnold men of 1602, reached the Gosnold land-fall, in latitude N. 43° and 44°; and in July returned, with a full report and favorable of a new found capacious harbor and the rivers of Mayooshan—Pemaquid and Sagadahoc with five Pemaquid Indians, natives.

COLONIAL CONTRACT.

April 10, A. D. 1606, the charter contract for colonial settlement of the points designated in this survey, was drawn up by Chief Justice Popham, between the Crown of England and leading noblemen thereof, to seize and occupy the country at the fit and convenient and desirable places indicated in the Weymouth surveys; and in the summer of 1607, two ships and a tender, from west of England and London, under command of Captain George Popham and a company of one hundred and twenty colonial volunteers, to settle the places aforesaid, reached Monhegan island, and harbored there the 9th of August, 1607, —spent that day,—a Sunday ashore, under an old cross found standing there, in the public worship of God, when and where was preached a sermon, by the chaplain of the ship, Richard Seymour, of the English Episcopal church. The next day, a party of the colonial expedition were conducted by a Pemaquid Indian, a pilot on board, to the neighboring main, westward, in the ship's boats, landed in a cove and marched across the point and to an Indian town, the residence of an Indian chief, Nahanada. Captain Popham thereafter, with fifty men in the ship's barge, rowed round the point, into the river, and met Nahanada and his bowmen drawn up in battle array. The interview, however, ended in amicable recognition; and Captain Popham retired to the opposite shore and slept his first night at Pemaquid. Thereafter both ships sailed for Sagadahoc, westward; and on the 20th of August landed on the peninsula of "Sabino," entrenched a fort, built a town of fifty houses, a store-house, a church with a †steeple to it, and a shipyard, and inaugurated a civil government.

*Strachey.

†Hunt's sketch, Brown's *Genesis of the United States*.

OUT GROWTH.

Out of this colonial movement, the Sheepscot and Pemaquid settlements of the English race seem to have started. Indeed, our earliest American authorities indicate that *Sheepscot and Pemaquid* were designated as "fit, *convenient, and desirable *places*," to be seized and fortified by †Popham colonists. The fact is given in Hubbard's summary of A. D. 1676, which says:—"Captain George Popham and Gilbert, were sent over at the charge of Sir John Popham, to begin a colony *at Sagadahoc * * ** and *about Sheepscot River* twenty miles from Pemaquid. Toward Pemaquid is a considerable river, the Sheepscot, upon the banks of which, were many scattered planters."

Hubbard further says: "The first place that was ever possessed by the English in hope of making a plantation * * * was on the west side of Sagadahoc river," and adds: "*other places adjoining* were soon after seized and improved for trade and fishing."

"Notwithstanding the discouragement of the first planters, Sir Francis Popham, son of Sir John, * * * having the ships and provisions which remained of the abandoned colony, sent divers times to the coast for trade and fishing."‡

The protest of Sir Francis to the abandonment seems to have sent his father's ship (the *Gift of God* and her tender) to Pemaquid,—where she was found by Captain John Smith, of Pocahontas fame, in 1614, in a §*Port*, on the main, over against Monhegan Island, having many years used only that port, so that most of the trade there was had by him, Sir Francis.

A PORT.

It is a commercial haven and has great significance in the dis-

*Charter of April 10, 1606.

†Charter of 1620.

‡Gorges.

§The record is "Sir Francis Popham, son and heir of the noble patriot his father, the chief justice, chief author of the undertaking" [at Sagadahoc] "on the break up there, would not wholly give over the design; but did divers times afterward send to the same coast for trade and fishing, to which purpose he had great opportunity, by the ships and provisions of the company, that remained in his hands." [5 vol. Mass. Hist. col. 2 series p. 372.]

The out-growth was the Popham Port at Pemaquid, where we find the beginnings of the earliest English commercial industries in New England in the sole use of the ships of the Popham estate and its heirs.

closures of Captain John Smith's Popham findings under Monhegan Island. Pemaquid is the only main-land near Monhegan over against its harbor, there being no main-land within reach east or north.

A port is a place of commercial business involving handling of freight, delivering and receiving cargoes; a place of imports and exports, foreign or domestic. Popham's Port at Pemaquid was a place of foreign export and of freight there gathered, of fish there caught and cured for market, and of furs and peltries, there bought and stored.

The word port in 1614 meant all that it means to-day, in commercial use and nomenclature. It is an epitome of facts, relating to business aggregation and incidents of commerce, by ships.

The above facts show that the Popham family were in occupancy of Pemaquid as an exclusive commercial site for export trade to England in 1614 and had been so occupied for years prior to 1614.

This fact involves the existence then and there, of wharves for the discharge and loading of cargoes and freight, store-houses for goods, and outfits for the fisheries, and ware-houses for peltries, dwelling houses for shoresmen and clerks, or agents and employees, purchasing furs, curing and storing fish for back freight, all necessary incidents of the business there described, and of a business of many years growth: a business so extended and centralized, *as to absorb the entire inland trade of Indian supplies and customs.*

Captain Williams was the Popham ship-master of 1614, at the Popham Pemaquid Port, loading and making up cargoes there for England; and if for six years before, it would make the opening of Popham's Port an English settlement at Pemaquid, in 1608, and coterminous with the abandonment of Sagadahoc, which was on or about October 8, 1608.

New Harbor to this day, shows the relics of very ancient commercial use.

On the main, opposite Monhegan Island, a mill-stream from the highlands of Pemaquid, has pushed its way into the sea between the headlands by a double outlet, forming the only harbor of refuge, near the point, known from the earliest periods of record, as "New Harbor."

The western margins are deeply marked with *ancient cellars*, and have been from the earliest periods of observation thus marked with

the remains of a *compact commercial settlement*. In the back ground well defined outlines of an old fort, out of which tall grown oaks have been cut. In the head of this harbor, fragments of ancient mill-stones, dug out of the flats, are still to be seen, and leaden relics of European trade, bearing the date of A. D. 1610, with other remarkable indications of a very ancient and permanent place of business, as a trade center or station.*

The fact of a port in the exclusive use of Popham's ships, in 1614, at or near this point, is an epitome of subordinate and correlative facts. It was a port of export of fish and the storage of furs by the cargo and for freight.

*DEPOSITION.

I, Joshua Thompson, of New Harbor, in the town of Bristol and State of Maine, do make oath and say that I was born at New Harbor, in said Bristol, and have resided there most of the time since; am forty-seven years of age. In the time of my boyhood the land on the north side of New Harbor was covered with wood of large growth, which has lately been cut away, bringing to light seventeen cellars or the remains of them. These cellars are as large as good sized houses in the same vicinity, and some are much larger than ordinary houses. On digging around these cellars I have found various articles of household use, such as pipes, crockery, hatchets, pincers, etc. These cellars had been stoned up with the same kind of stone as is now abundant about New Harbor. All these cellars contain charred remains of boards, planks, etc., seeming to show that the buildings had been burned. I have found these remains in twelve or fifteen of these cellars. The houses seem to have stood in two irregular rows, parallel to the shore of the Harbor. Near one of these cellars human bones which I judge to be the bones of a youth, were found just beneath the surface of the ground. On a small space near the shore I, and some others, found, close to the water's edge, thirty-two pounds of shot, by weight, within five years of this time. I know of fifty pounds having been found there varying in size from a musket bullet to a No. 2 shot. I still have a part of this shot in my house, but the greater part I allowed my boys to sell to pedlars not knowing the value or interest that might attach to it. Found also about twenty-five pounds of fragments of lead, of various shapes and sizes. This was scattered over a space from four to six rods square. Found in the same locality less than four years ago, a piece of lead of peculiar shape bearing a date "A. D. 1610" in the outer edge of a raised circle, containing the letter "H." On the reverse side is a stamp probably designed as an ornament but which could not well be made out. It is in two parts connected at one end by a leaden rivet, each part an inch long, or when open two inches long or more. I sold this piece of lead to Mr. Loring Grimes of Rockport, Mass., for five dollars. Found three other pieces of lead like the one sold to Mr. Grimes, but not having legible dates. Found at the same time a hatchet, obviously of European manufacture, the edge being about three inches wide. It was forged so as to be

Hubbard's narrative †records: Pemaquid is a very commodious haven, * * * and hath been found very advantageous for ships such as use the coast for fishing voyages. There hath been for a long time, seven or eight considerable dwellings about Pemaquid, a place well suited to pasturage about the harbor, for cattle and fields for tillage. All such lands are already taken up by such number of inhabitants." In less than ten years after Captain Smith had described the extensive Indian trade of Popham's Port on the east shores of Pemaquid (1623-4) Christopher Levett an English navigator in the service of Gorges, came into Boothbay Harbor, where he spent four or five days and found nine ships there harboring, engaged in the fisheries. There he encountered a fleet of Indian canoes laden with beaver coats and peltries, on the way to Pemaquid. Sa-maa-set led the expedition; and Cogawesco of Casco, and Mena-worimet of Sasanoa river, were of the Indian trading company. Levett coveted this Pemaquid truck; and by the influence of Samaaset, diverted every beaver coat and peltry, except a single one with two skins pledged to pay a debt at Pemaquid, to his own trade and ship. The beaver laden canoes,

used in the right hand only, it has no pole and is not shaped like the axes used now in this country. Among the scraps of lead I found a piece of silver money. The date of this was obliterated, it was as large as a dime.

Besides the cellars of which I have spoken there appears the remains of what looks like a fortification. This is on the highest point of land on the north side of the Harbor, and quite commands its approaches by land as well as by water. Its size is as follows east and west 52 feet, north and south 51 feet. The entrance was at the south-east corner. The walls are about five feet thick. From time to time the stone of these walls have been removed by the citizens to build cellars and stone fences. All this was covered in my boyhood by oak wood of very large size which has since been cleared off.

A mill-stone was dug out of the soil at the head of New Harbor some years ago, and now lies in the water, where it can be seen.

I have lately seen the piece of lead referred to above, bearing date "A. D. 1610" in the possession of Mr. J. H. Hackelton of this town.

Bristol, Maine, May 12th, 1871.

JOSHUA THOMPSON.

Personally appeared Joshua Thompson and made oath that the above statements are true to the best of his belief and knowledge.

FRANCIS WHEELER,
J. Peace.

†Hubbard's Indian Wars.

had a great store of peltries for the Pemaquid market, whither they were bound.

This *fact shows that Popham's Port, Pemaquid, held a firm grasp of wide scope on the Indian trade of the country prior to 1625 ; and further shows the existence there of the necessary adjuncts of import and export trade, usual in foreign commerce and ship business, to support many years of such business. The wharf, the store house, dwellings for shoresmen and employees, are all usual necessities ; with the probable safe guard of a fort, to cover the business interest of the port, which means more than a trade station and fishing place,—a haven for ships : a nestling place for commerce. By Smith's account, Popham's Port at Pemaquid, was the great fur market of the country ; and if in addition, the Pophams dealt in fish, or engaged in its industries there, this Port must have had extensive stages and ware-houses there for curing and storing cargoes for shipment. Fish and furs were the staples of export trade thence to England, prior to 1614 for years before. The gathering of freight, and handling of cargoes, and making up foreign voyages with outfits involved many land's men in care and labor. This port although under Monhegan, and in sight, was on the main, accessible to the Indian canoemen, and more favorable to trade in peltries, than Monhegan with the perils of a twelve mile transit at sea in the fragile, laden, Indian canoe ; and therefore used before Monhegan had become occupied.

Major in his †travels in Virginia, declares that the fisheries and fur trade of the Popham voyages, gave considerable impulse to colonization. In 1614, they had created a commercial trade center at Pemaquid, which controlled the business of the country, at a haven on the east shore. The country and surroundings in Smith's graphic account, of his observations and experiences off Popham's Port, "showed high craggy cliff rocks, stony isles and it was a wonder such great trees could grow upon them. The sea there, too, was the strangest of fish-pond. The coast all mountainous, and isles of huge rocks, over grown with most sorts of excellent woods, for house building, the building of boats, barks or ships, with an incredible abundance of most sorts of fish, much fowl and sundry fruits, and where the Indians

*Leveit's Voyage M. His. Col. Vol. II.

†Major's Intro. Tra. in Va. p. 17.

take and kill most of their otter. A hundred fish of its waters were in marketable worth, equal to two hundred of the eastern catch, with half the labor in curing and a whole voyage in season earlier."

All these allegations relate to Smith's experiences and observations in and about Popham's Port at Pemaquid, and which had been so long pre-occupied in the fur trade of the Popham estate on the main under Monhegan, it was impracticable for Smith to make a diversion in his favor.

DIVERSION OF TRADE.

Two years after, Smith projected a scheme to create a settlement on the island adjacent to Pemaquid, to divide the business, or rival the Port of Pemaquid. To assure success, he *says he made an arrangement with a proud savage and one of their greatest Lords, Nahanada. Nahanada commanded the harbor at the mouth of the river, on the Sagadahoc, or west side of Pemaquid Point. On his return to England, he enlisted Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Dr. Sutcliff, a clergyman, to fit out two vessels, one of which was two hundred tons. It was in 1616.

Smith commanded one, and Thomas Dermer the other; and the ships sailed together to secure a diversion and concentration of trade on Monhegan. One hundred and twenty miles out in a storm, Smith's vessel strained her masts, and was driven back to port. Dermer escaped the gale, executed his commission at Monhegan and started business there with success. Smith never returned to aid the enterprise further; but the fruits of Dermer's success, were English homesteads around Monhegan Island harbor, a dependency of Pemaquid; and from thence a diversion of trade and capital was made to the harbor mouth of the little river of Pemaquid, where Aldworth and Elbridge established their Plantation in 1625, and who bought of the Jennings of London, their stock in trade on the island within less than a decade after the Gorges establishment on Monhegan.

INCIDENTS, 1622.

On the above facts of record, we leave it to the common sense, to say, whether there was a settlement at Pemaquid prior to 1625; and as to the importance, and continuity of business enterprise there; and

*Smith's Hist. of Virginia.

whether or not it was an off shoot of the Popham colonial adventure of 1607. Colonial beginnings usually have growth, and that growth, is a fair exponent of the success and extent of the planting.

EXPANSION.

The natural trend of populous and industrial development of the commercial interests and influence of Popham's Port at Pemaquid, would be inland toward the beaver dams and otter haunts of the marshes and ponds. The Sheepscot head waters being a net work of marsh channels fringed with arable lands, made the Sheepscot attractive. The farmers gathered there, and the traders, seamen, and emigrants, were established twenty miles below at Pemaquid to handle the fish, furs and truck in peltries, for the merchants of Bristol, England. Fifty families had made the Sheepscot the garden of New England, in 1630. In 1660 Maverick wrote: "Pemaquid was a river, west of Penobscot, on which Alderman Aldworth of Bristol settled a company of people in 1625. The Plantation hath continued; and many families are now settled there. A grant from the Crown gives to its holdings, Monhegan, Damariscove, and other islands adjacent, commodious for fishing."

In 1664, the Pemaquid country was created a royal province, made a crown estate thereafter organized into a county, Cornwall, and two municipalities, Jamestown and New Dartmouth, the first at the seaside and the second inland among the beaver dams of the Sheepscot, and is described "as richly stored with great fish, oysters and lobsters"; and by the French: that the whole coast of the sea, was studded with English houses well built and in good condition. Hutchinson says: the "sea-coast was well inhabited. The fisheries were in a flourishing state. The English were settled in great numbers, and had a large country cleared under improvement."

Jocelyn, who was in Maine in 1638 and after, wrote of the Duke's territory—Pemaquid—"it is all filled with dwelling houses; stages for fishermen; has plenty of cattle, arable land and marshes." As early as 1640, hay and cattle were exported from Pemaquid to Massachusetts; and in 1641, the *record shows that Pemaquid had the ordinances of the gospel, making overtures for the supply of preaching to its people, in hire of an Episcopal service of the church there half the

*Trelawny Papers.

time. Such is a bird's-eye view of the salient facts of the English history of Pemaquid prior to 1625 and up to 1676.

The detail of events to be woven in, make a web of history, full of romance and tragedy, equal to any part of New England. The root of all this fatness was Popham's Port. Supplementary to the foregoing record, we subjoin the following public, published evidence from various State papers, bearing on the continuity of the Popham colonial holdings, and in support of the theory, that the protest of the abandonment of Sagadahoc by the Pophams, was the English beginnings of Pemaquid.

PUBLIC RECORDS.

Spain regarded the English movements to colonize New England as an intrusion and invasion of her transatlantic rights and titles.

Her spies were sent to every point and her ambassadors were alert to catch every rumor. Every English colonial plantation, was duly sketched to fill out detailed reports to Philip III, King of Spain.

Even the projected contract of April 10, 1606, was heralded at Madrid, before its execution by Popham and Gilbert began, by Zuniga, ambassador of Spain at the English court, who dispatched his master on the 16th of March prior: "that the English people propose to send a company to Virginia close to Florida; and a year or so before they had brought the natives to be instructed in aid of their possession, and their *chief leader was Chief Justice Popham, a great Puritan." "They have an agreement two vessels shall go." After the Popham contracts were signed, the minister reported. He also entered a protest to the King of England, saying—"it was publicly rumored, two vessels had sailed; two others, ready to go; and he heard from Plymouth, they (the English,) had settled another district near the other, i. e. the first.

The above dispatches relate, we think, to the Popham colonial undertakings of August, 1607, in Maine, and refer to Pemaquid beginnings.

Zuniga, in Jan. 1609, reported to the King of Spain, "Chief Justice Popham's Colony has returned in sad plight." "Still there sails now, *a good ship and her tender*"; i. e. the *Gift of God* and her fly-boat

*Brown's *Genesis of the U. S.*

of the Popham estate. "They proceed to Virginia * * * will make themselves very strong." On the 5th of March, 1610, Zuniga reports further: "I am told vessels are loading at Plymouth, with men, to people the country they have taken; and colonies from Exeter and Plymouth are on two large rivers," meaning we think the Sagadahoc and Pemaquid.

On the 27th of Sept. 1612, the Minister of Spain, reported—"that the colonies of Virginia have houses built already; and have begun another plantation in Terra Nova parts, where are the great fisheries." This can be no where else than Pemaquid.

The English State papers furnish further facts growing out of these complaints of Spain. In 1613, England replied to the Spanish charges of intrusion, aforesaid, by Carleton, the Secretary of State, who was directed to declare to Spain, "that she had no possession in the premises; that England by discovery and actual possession, had paramount title, through two colonies, *whereof the latter, [i. e. Pop- ham's], is yet there remaining.*"

The Sagadahoc fragment had abandoned its plant in October 1608, but the Popham interest had taken root at Pemaquid and was in thrift of active commercial enterprise, out of which a port had become an established place for trade in furs, in 1614; and of sufficient national importance to be regarded as continued colonial holding under international law, and so used.

In March, 1619, the heirs and successors to the original adventurers of the Popham colony, petitioned the Crown for a grant in accord, with a conditional promise of the land interest that colony had acquired by its enterprize, under the contract of April 10, 1606. The Attorney General investigated the claim of the petitioners, survivors and successors of the grantees of the charter agreements of April 10, 1606, and on his report, the privy council issued to them the charter of November 3, 1620, known as the great New England charter. The recitals of this public document, declare, that prior to 1619, the parties to the Popham colonial transactions, had been at great expense in seeking and discovery of a place; "fit and convenient to found a hopeful plantation;" "*and in divers years before the issue had taken actual possession of the continent and already settled English people in places agreeable to their desires in those parts.*"

Who then can honestly deny the fact, that the Popham colony founded the beginnings of New England; and that the continuity of its holdings at Pemaquid and Sheepscot, were of international value and importance to the success of the English race in North America, or loyally belittle or decry Pemaquid?

II.

It has been said, "God first prepares slowly and from afar, that which he designs to accomplish," a truth, as rational, as it is obvious and devout.

All beginnings have their exigencies, which, met and turned, are preludes to, as well as conditions of success.

Plymouth and the Pilgrims of the colonial epoch of 1620, had theirs.

That these beginnings had their life exigencies provided for in Maine, in her "Pemaquid country," in the scheme of Providence, a series of facts exist, which, marshaled in natural relations, we think will show.

The history of the colonial life of Plymouth, has been fully developed, in minute detail in all the shadings and touches of the highest art in literature and eloquence which the memories of affection or the resources of pride could suggest.

But the *exigencies* of that life now glowing in magnificent outlines of a grand sweep, were pregnant with perils, critical periods, whose relief came from Maine.

FIRST EXIGENCY OF EXTINCTION FROM SAVAGE HOSTILITIES RELIEVED.

A foothold on Plymouth rock had been secured in the month of December, 1620.

The icy, wild and inhospitable surroundings rendered it most uncertain ground, and the step into the new world, an exceeding slippery footfall to the Pilgrim colonists.

Threading the shores of Cape Cod Harbor in search of shattered debarkation, the emigrants of the Mayflower, on it, had made a landing. Their first attempt had been greeted with "a great and strange cry" out of the sand hills and thickets, supplemented with a cloud of winged arrows of death headed with flint and bone to repel the intrusion of strangers. Pilgrim fire-locks and the scream of Christian

bullets were Pilgrim death heralds, invisible and invincible, which answered back.

It was the opening act in the conflict of races, here in New England, for supremacy, in a drama of blood and depopulation, which has ever since followed the white man's tread across the New World.

The foothold here gained, the intruding race stood appalled at the inauspicious surroundings. Ninety days of shivering horrors had only deepened the gloomy forebodings of their landing.

Not more than sixty survived the colonial debarkation; nor of these, more than six or seven, were able at times to wait on the sick, the impotent, and dying.

The deep forests and *neighboring swamps howled for days together with savage incantations and curses against them in their distress and calamity. Peace and life were at stake. Their landing place already heaped with new-made graves menaced betrayal of their weakness in their hostile surroundings and savage neighbors, and had to be leveled.

It was the 16th of March, 1621; and the opportunity of savage hordes, most cruel and treacherous, "even like lions," lurking to make the remnant of colonial life at Plymouth a prey, had fully dawned.

At this juncture in the emergency of their solicitude,—"a tall straight man;—the hair of his head black; long behind only short before, none on his face at all, starke naked only a leather about his wast with a fringe about a span long, or little more; having a bow and 2 arrowes, the one headed and the other unheaded; free in speech and of a seemely carriage," appeared, boldly walking among the Plymouth cabins, crying as he went, "*Much welcome, Englishmen!*" "*Much welcome, Englishmen!*" It startled the colonists. Surprise and alarm combined to quicken curiosity. The stranger was "Samoset" of Puritan orthography—a savage lord from the "eastern parts," distant "a dayes sayle with a great wind" from the Plymouth village. But the "eastern parts" described, were on the coast of Maine and in the Pemaquid country near the 44°.

First of the native races of New England in the person of this tall straight man of her Pemaquid wilds, Maine intervened to relieve the forlorn strangers. He frankly and intelligently informed the col-

*Morton's Memorial p. 32.

onists of the country they had reached, its provinces, the several environing savage chieftans and their strength, †“as well as with many things in the state of the eastern country.”

The Pilgrims were won over to confidence. Hope dawned with promise of a peaceful future and deliverance from the perils of savage surroundings. Moved to friendship and pity, the Pilgrims sought to shield the shivering form of their savage benefactor from the keen March winds, and gave him “a horseman’s coat.” He asked for “some beere.” They gave him “strong water and biskit, and butter and cheese,” and a piece of wild duck. He liked it; doubtless had eaten the like before at English tables at Pemaquid, his home. He had been for some time in Cape Cod region on account of the necessities and dangers before the Plymouth colonists landed, having left the “eastern parts,” eight months before, which would be about the 19th of July, 1620. He spent the day with the colonists; and also determined to spend the night.

Distrustful of his purposes the Pilgrims yielded with reluctance, and would have him quartered in the hold of the “Mayflower” which still lay at anchor in the bay, but actually lodged him in the house of Stephen Hopkins, under guard.

In the early gray of the dawn of the next morning, however, he left. Soon he returned leading in others of his race. It was Sunday. Wearing a knife, a bracelet and ring, Pilgrim benefactions, with signs of amity, he introduced “five tall proper men”—with hair cut short before, but long behind, hung with foxtails and feathers and having painted faces, their chief bearing a wild-cat’s skin on one arm, and in his hand parched corn powdered to “no-cake.”

There were interchanged social and friendly greetings. The savages were dismissed, to return with their sovereign; but Samoset remained a Pilgrim guest. He received a hat, a pair of stockings, shoes and a shirt, and continued with the Pilgrim colonists, till the arrival of Massasoit, the king of that country, and the assurance of peace, by treaty, to which his kind offices greatly contributed.

Thus introduced by the Pemaquid sagamore and prepared for a peaceful conference, the king, with sixty braves, met Governor Carver

*Tradition and Penobscot Indians pronounce as if spelled “Sa-maa-set.”

†Mourt’s Relation, p. 26.

of Plymouth, Captain Standish, Mr. Williamson, and six musketeers. They came heralded with drum and trumpet. Negotiations were at once entered upon, and an agreement for peace and amity, between the colonists and environing savages, was concluded, with "kissing, drinking and feasting." His majesty, Massasoit, meanwhile trembling and sweating under sturdy draughts of the Pilgrim's strange "strong waters," became an easy conquest to the colonial plan of an assured state of amity. The repose and success of the colonial life at Plymouth, having thus been covered, Samoset, in the glory of his benevolent agency, in controlling the incidents of the cradling of an embryo state and the infancy of Massachusetts passes forever from Plymouth scenes, leaving the Pilgrims informed of the state of the country, and also of "*the eastern parts.*" The chief men of the savage tribes in their neighborhood, their disposition and their power, were detailed. Especially were they by him, informed of the influence and power of King Massasoit within whose local jurisdiction, the Pilgrim lot had fallen; and the peace he had helped to confirm for half a century covered and fastened an English commonwealth in the heart of savage empire.

The result was a new lease of life to the apparently doomed Pilgrim colony. History *records, that no incident could have diffused greater joy into the hearts of the disconsolate and infirm, than the intervention of the Pemaquid savage, at this crisis in Plymouth.

Thus, Pemaquid covered the young life of Plymouth with half a century's peace, and probably, saved the quenching of its kindlings among the sand hills of Cape Cod, where its flickerings were menaced with extinction, by the terrible surroundings of savage wilds.

The life threads of Pilgrim existence, seem to have been held at Pemaquid, in the hand of Samoset, its savage lord, whose appearance at this crisis, at Plymouth, "to *the sick and dying seemed the mission of an angelic herald."

RELIEF OF PILGRIM EXGENCIES.

Prior to the transactions of Aldworth at Pemaquid 1625, incidents occurred at Plymouth, connecting that colonial beginning with "Pemaquid and its dependencies," in life saving—relief †Maverick, in 1660,

*Thatcher's Hist. Plym. p. 34.

†Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. Vol. 21, p. 231.

wrote of Plymouth and says—"The town there settled being extremely hardy in great danger of Indians, could not long have subsisted had not Plymouth merchants settled plantations about Monhegan by whom it was supplied, &c." In illustration of the fact here suggested, I subjoin the incidents relating thereto, bearing on the thrift and resources of Pemaquid prior to 1625.

EXIGENCY OF STARVATION.

Popham's Port, in 1622, was known as the "eastern parts," in the history of the time, and covered all its island dependencies, Monhegan and the Damariscove group.

We have seen that Captain John Smith's voyage of 1614 discovered the existence of the Popham holdings at Pemaquid to his disappointment. In command of two London ships, with cargoes assorted for Indian trade, he anchored in the little harbor of Monhegan island in early summer. But his trade plans on shore were defeated, and he was obliged to build boats for skirting the coast westward, and also to go to gardening on the island, and do his business beyond Pemaquid, and beat up trade outside the jurisdiction of Popham's shipping port. The fact is as instructive as it was palpable, of its business importance, and extent in 1614. But in 1622, the growth and importance of the Popham nucleus, had great expansion, and a public notoriety, as the "eastern parts," and of great attraction to English shipping, where, a fleet of *thirty sail*, harbored for trade and freight. Besides, it is recorded—"a fleet of better class, or sorts of ships than for trade and fishing—came for transportation of planters, or supply of such as were already planted" in emigrant ships and freighters.

In this fleet, Thomas Weston of London had a vessel, the Sparrow, Captain Hudston. "Among the specks of strnggling civilization dotting the skirts of the green primeval forests," says Charles Francis Adams in his history of Weymouth, "the little Colony of Plymouth, was not the least."

Note. Sam'l Mavericks record p 20. New Plymouth, settled 1620. The town there settled living extremely for some years in great danger of Indians could not long have subsisted had not P. merchants settled plantations about that time at Monhegan and Piscataquay by whom they were supplied and Indians discouraged from assaulting them."

Sam'l Maverick Mass. Hist. Col. Vol. 21 p 231 1884.

It had reached a crisis in 1622. The facts are as follows:

"This little colony had been established only about seventeen months." They had struggled through their second winter, and now, sadly reduced in numbers, with supplies wholly exhausted, the Pilgrims were surely distressed.

"They were *entirely destitute of bread." They had subsisted on clams and other shell fish, until they were greatly debilitated. "When †planting was finished, their victuals, were spent; and they did not know at night, where to have a bit in the morning, having had neither bread or corn, for three or four month's together."

The whole settlement was alive with anxious excitement.

"Suddenly," says Adams, "a boat was seen to cross the mouth of the bay and disappear behind the next head-land." A shot was fired as a signal. In response, the boat altered her course and headed for the bay. It was a tender, or shallop, of the ship Sparrow of London, with seven men, in the employ of a London merchant named Weston," from the eastern parts, Samoset's home where the ship had her anchorage, waiting freight. The men had a letter of sympathy from Captain Hudson, master of the Sparrow.

This waif from the coasts of Maine, had sailed some forty leagues, from the depots of trade and freight, in the "eastern parts," where were many ships. The men who came in Sparrow's shallop, were unacquainted with the Pilgrim plantation, it being a new beginning; but Hudson had heard of it through Weston, the owner of his ship, now at †Damorile's isles and of the Pemaquid fleet. Weston had been an active agent of one John Pierce, in promoting the Plymouth emigration. In Feb. 1620 he had visited Leyden and informed the people of a grant in the "northern parts" derived from the Virginia Patent, called "New England," and to which the Pilgrims inclined to go, "for ye hope of present profit to be made by ye fishing that was found in ye countrie."

The Sparrow's boat-men, it seems, landed at the Pilgrim hamlet on Plymouth Rock in answer to the signal gun under a salute of three

*Thatcher's Hist. Plymouth p. 52.

†White's N. E. P. Bradford.

‡Morton's Memorial p 40.

volleys of musketry, and seven men debarked, but with no provisions to relieve the Pilgrim destitution.

The return of the shallop to her eastern service was speedily arranged, having no doubt informed the famished Pilgrims of stores of food in the "eastern parts." Thereupon Gov. Bradford dispatched the Plymouth shallop with Winslow, bearing an answer to Hudson's letter and means to purchase food, which was piloted by the returning shallop to the "eastern parts," and safely reached the anchorage of the ships there harboring, and the colonists of Plymouth thus learned the way to that region.

The representatives of the hungry Pilgrims were kindly received by the captain of the Sparrow, who not only did what he could, but gave Winslow *letters of introduction to *others*, by which means a good quantity of provisions was obtained.

This authority makes it certain, the provisions shipped back to Plymouth, were furnished not by any one vessel, nor by the fishermen at Damariscove alone, but by others in and about Pemaquid or Popham's Port there.

The supply was considerable—ample to give each Pilgrim, a quarter of a pound of bread day by day till harvest; and consisted of bread material, Indian corn, possibly, or meal.

Winslow's report was "I found kind entertainment and good respect with willingness to supply our wants so far as able—would not take any bills for same—did what they could freely." History avers this shallop load of provisions "*was a very seasonable blessing and supply*, the Plymouth people *being †in a low condition for want of food*," the details of whose straits we have already sketched. The emergency of starvation at Plymouth in 1622, was thus relieved from the resources of the Pemaquid country. The obvious rational and logical deduction of the record facts is, that fishermen alone did not supply the bread to meet the Pilgrim extremity of famine in 1622. Contribution from other than the Sparrow's resources must have been made, for no fishing vessels could safely have reduced supplies of bread to meet the draft necessary to yield the allowance taken to Plymouth colony by Winslow, without more or less peril to the voyage, unless indeed, there were stores to be had on shore. Is it possible in this state of facts, there was no business settlement on shore?

*Morton's Memorial p 41.

†Thatcher's Hist. Plymouth.

INDUSTRIES OF 1623.

Another incident, showing the eminence of Pemaquid and its dependencies, in resources of labor and commercial industries, prior to 1625, occurred in April of 1623.

An attempt had been made to colonize the environs of Massachusetts Bay by Thomas Weston, a merchant of London, within the confines of which the Puritans of England afterward planted their homes. He, it appears, had been very active in bringing the Pilgrims into New England from Leyden. He sent out two vessels, the *Charity* and *Swan*, with "sixty stout men" to begin the settlement of "Massachusetts Bay" at a place called "Weymouth." The Bay Colony landed, was furnished with supplies for the winter and left in charge of one John Sanders. By the opening of the new year, the subsistence of the "Bay Colony" had become exhausted. In their extremity, in the month of February, they appealed to Plymouth and Capt. Standish was sent to their relief. The leaders had planned to go to the "fishing stations,"* eastward, to buy provisions. They lacked supplies, however, for the voyage. The "*Swan*," a thirty-ton vessel, had been left for service in the Bay; and Sanders had contrived to get himself away to the "main fishing stations," leaving his comrades face to face with famine behind. Standish proposed to protect the stay of the remnant on the shores of the Bay, or take them home with him to Plymouth. This proposition created a division of opinion among the Bay colonists. Sanders had already gone east to the places of plenty. The abandoned Bay colonists thanked Captain Standish, but told him if he would furnish outfits for the voyage they preferred to go to the "Eastern Parts" and there look out for themselves:—saying, they could work with the fishermen, earn supplies there and passage to England." Standish furnished the food for the voyage, for such as desired to go to the Pemaquid region; saw them safely embarked and out the Bay, eastward bound. Thus Massachusetts was abandoned by its first colony; and the industrial regions of the Eastern parts drew a portion of the colony to Pemaquid dependencies for the benefit of its labor and commercial opportunities, which we believe and aver to have been an expansion of the business and trade of the Popham settlement of Pemaquid Point. This incident shows that the Popham beginnings at Pemaquid had wide spread notoriety, as a center of English indus-

tries in fish and furs and commerce and were an outgrowth of the Pop-
ham colonial undertakings of 1607 in Maine.

CONCLUSION.

The foregoing facts show that "Popham's Port," Pemaquid, had expanded business openings, in attractive commercial industries, known as the "eastern parts," in 1622 and 1623, and between these dates and 1614, having growth into centers of labor and enterprize described as "fishing stations" and "stages," environing the port on the main-land of Pemaquid Point, at least eight years before Plymouth had a begin-
ning.

English associations at the home of Samoset had prepared the savage Lord of Pemaquid for the very offices of kindness by him shown at Plymouth.

A waif of the ship Sparrow from Damariscove, a dependency of Pemaquid, informed the hungry Pilgrims that bread could be found in Maine, to feed and save the famished colonists from starvation, and led the way to the "eastern parts" for a generous supply, in 1622. In 1623, resources of supply of remunerative labor, incidental to the cure, care and skill in making fish into cargoes for export and the gathering, baling, storage and shipment of beaver coats, otter skins, and other fur-bearing peltries, had made the "eastern parts," of which Pemaquid was the center, attractive to toil in opportunities for earning money so that the abandoning colonists of Massachusetts bay, preferred and sought these parts in the breaking up of the Weston plantation there.

To enable Maine to feed the Pilgrims in their emergency of star-
vation and to succor the despondent colonists in their abandonment of the Mass. Bay shores, with opportunities for escape from their perils and poverty, Providence had already provided commerce a nestling place on the main-land of Pemaquid in a port there with all its inci-
dental and necessary environments, of trade and labor to relieve and foster the beginnings of English life and civilization in New England.

These incidents gleaned out of the shadows and glimpses of his-
tory, of a Massachusetts record, we submit to a fair honest and im-
partial consideration that Maine must have been the salvation of Ply-
mouth, and Pemaquid a storage of life resources in the beginnings of
of New England.

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